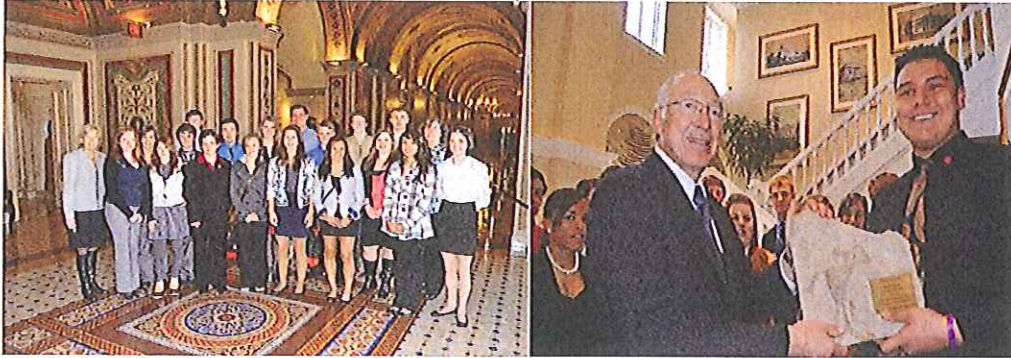




**COLORADO PRESERVE AMERICA YOUTH SUMMIT-WASHINGTON, DC  
CONNECTING CULTURES: MARCH 5-7, 2012**



### Summary of Summit

Student and teacher leaders from the Colorado Preserve America Youth Summit participated in a very successful and memorable Youth Summit in Washington, DC over three days, March 5-7, 2012. They had an interactive tour of the Lincoln Memorial, shared their ideas for advancing experience-based learning opportunities, and consulted with leaders on the recently introduced American Latino Heritage Initiative. The DC Youth Summit included 17 Colorado high school students, 2 social studies teachers and 2 program staff: the Youth Summit Program Director and the Youth Summit Communications and Outreach Director. Over three days, the DC Summit participants met with over 30 leaders in preservation, public policy, and education. They also had visits with members of the Colorado congressional delegation; networked with preservation leaders from across the country, and gave a presentation at a national conference. These leaders included:

- The Honorable Ken Salazar, Secretary of the Interior
- Senator Michael Bennet
- Senator Mark Udall
- Congressman Scott Tipton
- Congressman Jared Polis
- Congressman Cory Gardner
- Will Shafroth, Councilor to Secretary Salazar for America's Great Outdoors
- Rachel Jacobson, Acting Assistant Secretary for Fish, Wildlife and Parks, Department of the Interior
- Eileen Sobek, Deputy Assistant Secretary for Fish, Wildlife and Parks, Department of the Interior & DOI's Senior Policy Official for Historic Preservation
- Jon Jarvis, Director, National Park Service
- Stephanie Toothman, Associate Director, Cultural Resources, National Park Service
- Julia Washburn, Associate Director, Interpretation and Education, National Park Service
- Carol Shull, Interim Keeper of the National Register of Historic Places & Chief, Heritage Education Services, National Park Service
- Beth Boland, Teaching with Historic Places Program Manager, National Park Service

*The Colorado Preserve America Youth Summit is funded in part by the National Park Service, Southwest Airlines, individual donations, the National Trust for Historic Preservation, National Conference of State Historic Preservation Officers, Preservation Action, Colorado Preservation, Inc. and the State Historical Fund, a program of History Colorado*





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### Leaders continued:

- Department of the Interior & National Park Service staff leaders for the American Latino Heritage Initiative including Francisco Carrillo, Celinda Peña, Alexandra Lord, Richard O'Connor, Robert Arzola, and Paloma Bolasny
- Midy Aponte, Interim Executive Director, American Latino Heritage Fund, National Park Foundation
- R. Wayne Donaldson, Chairman, Advisory Council on Historic Preservation
- Stephanie Meeks, President National Trust for Historic Preservation
- Estevan Rael-Galvez, Vice President, National Trust for Historic Preservation
- Edward C. Nichols, Colorado State Historic Preservation Officer
- Education experts from the Smithsonian, Library of Congress, National Archives, National Park Service, National History Day, National Council for History Education, and others
- Preservation leaders from Advisory Council on Historic Preservation

The agenda enabled students to act as consultants to provide critical input on programs, projects and initiatives with particular focus on the implementation of the American Latino Heritage Initiative. With the purpose of broadening program impact, outreach, and relevance for students, the team participated in meetings, presentations, a site visit, and 3 interactive forums. Discussion and debate generated new ideas, recommendations and creative strategies which will support programming that reaches out to youth and families and the future.

The Summit provided students with valuable opportunities to interact with national leaders, afforded them a forum to voice their opinions and suggestions, and significantly enabled them first-hand experience in working to shape national programs and initiatives. Students gained confidence and knowledge in how to express the importance of heritage and cultural programming, investment in hands-on educational experiences and at the same time learning more about the process of implementing initiatives and programs at a national level. They had an experience that most professionals have not had in their careers, one which could stimulate the students to become life-long advocates for history, culture and historic preservation. For the teachers, the Summit provided a stimulating opportunity to foster student leadership and advance appreciation of history outside of the classroom, away from the confines of required curriculum. Additionally, it gave students and teachers alike the opportunity to advocate for continued support of Arts and Humanities programming in the classroom and through national partnerships with our government agencies.

Notably, the most lasting effect is probably on those with whom the students interacted. The enthusiasm, unfiltered ideas, excitement and commitment of these young people is infectious, provoking stimulation and fresh approaches to program implementation. From the Senators to the Forum, leaders expressed appreciation and respect for the level of knowledge that the students conveyed and respect for their ideas

Listed below are some of suggested recommendations offered by the students:

- Create a Youth Advisory Committee for American Latino Heritage Initiative
- Proactively draft Wikipedia pages for initiatives
- Use youth to implement American Latino Heritage Initiative through outreach in schools and recreation centers

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Recommendations Continued:

- Create a two-way interactive platform for collection of family stories for American Latino Heritage Initiative
- Include all Hispanic and Latino cultures in American Latino Heritage Initiative
- Connect with Boy Scouts of America to support programming that melds the Latino Heritage program (and future themes and topics) with merit badge programming.
- Create a Youth Advisory Committee for National Trust for Historic Preservation
- Offer more internship and service opportunities with a heritage focus for high school students
- Reach out to school service programs through National Honor Society, International Baccalaureate programs and other service programs
- Use videos in interpretative and educational outreach; one suggestion was to create a Tumblr or other video based blog platform to share program information
- Convene a National Youth Summit on key policy issues
- Support Youth Summits in states across the country to enable to provide alternatives to learning about history and culture out of the classroom and away from the text book while making a positive impact on communities large and small.
- Make exhibits and interpretative programs hands-on and interactive, story based and offer alternatives for teens, not just adults and elementary school
- Acknowledge that learning is best when stimulates all senses-recommend that exhibits and interpretative programs be sensory
- Support continued financial support for humanities programming which can positively affect cultural heritage programming and studies in our communities.
- Support students from diverse backgrounds being involved in groundbreaking educational initiatives. Their voices need to be heard



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